

completely submerged and the tail was flattened out on the water.

Upon my uttering a whistle similar to the "hissing whistle" the bird disengaged from its feeding activities and started up a display of "hissing" and "plonking."

When preparing to whistle the bird stretches out its neck, the beak of the bird being at an angle of approximately 45° and lobe touching the water, and raises the fanned out tail over the back until it is almost in a horizontal position. The bird then flaps its wings and shoots out a spray of water on both sides of the body. The tail is then flattened down on to the back and, simultaneously, the whistle is given, the beak opening only slightly. The bird then relaxes and assumes the rest position before continuing the performance. The bird continually moves around while whistling and no two successive calls are uttered in the same direction. When the bird is reasonably close the sound of the water shot out from the wings can be heard immediately preceding the whistle.

The preliminary antics for the metallic plonk are the same as for the whistle, with the bird stretching out its neck, the lobe touching the water and the beak angled at 45° . Procedure from this position may follow one of two patterns: (a) With the tail at approximately 45° the bird flaps its wings as before. The tail is then jerked to a near vertical position and the plonk simultaneously uttered. Sometimes the tail is carried through past the vertical and angled over the back. (b) The tail is raised to a near vertical position. The wings are then flapped and, following this action, the tail is brought sharply up over the back and at the same time the call is emitted. The splash of the water is not so easily distinguished from the bird's call as in the whistle.

The bird when feeding adopted the submerged position but at times allowed the tail to rise up to an angle of approximately 10° . Preceding each dive the tail, regardless of whether it was flat or angled, was quickly raised a few inches and then lowered to its original position. The time that the bird stayed under water while feeding appeared to be rather constant and in the vicinity of 25 seconds. When surfacing the bird noticeably pauses with its head and neck above the water and its body completely submerged before it comes up to the submerged position.

The Musk Duck under observation was warned off by one of a pair of Black Swans with 5 eygnets but neither of the birds appeared unduly worried by the other.

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CORRECTIONS

In the paper on the Red-eared Firetail by Klaus Immelmann (*W.A. Nat.*, no. 6) the following corrections are necessary:

P. 143, line 11: insert "not" between "also" and "possess."

P. 150: line 10 from bottom: insert "or song" between "any call" and "during."